

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

INDIANAPOLIS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 23, 1978

TO: Gary Land Development Files No. 14

THRU: *gpd*FROM: Bruce Palin *BP*

SUBJECT: Odor Complaint

On May 8, 1978, I received a complaint from Ron Novak of the Hammond Air Pollution Control of a strong septic odor which he said he had traced to the Gary Land Development Landfill on Saturday, May 6. He said that he had gone north of the site and not smelled the odor and had driven on to the Industrial Disposal site south of the Gary Land Development and the odor was very strong. The wind was from the north by northeast at that time of day. Mr. Novak said he drove on to the Gary Land Development site and the odor was still quite strong. He said it appeared to be coming from the sump area but he did not notice any material that might be creating the odor.

On May 9, 1978, I inspected the Gary Land Development site to try and determine the cause of the odor problems which were detected as far away as Munster. Upon inspecting the site, I could not detect any noticeable septic odors nor did I find evidence of any waste which did not belong on the site. When I asked Mr. Hagen about last Saturday, he said that he had noticed the smell below Fifth Street on Cline Avenue around 5:30 p.m. He said he drove around trying to find the source of the problem. He stated that he traced it to the Gary Sewage Treatment Plant but did not go inside so he could only speculate as to what caused the odor. Mr. Hagen was very upset about Mr. Novak's releasing to the paper a statement that his landfill site was the cause of the problem especially without any proof. Mr. Hagen stated he wanted a published retraction of the statement or else he was going to sue the paper and Mr. Novak for libel. After inspecting the site I drove around the area and over to the Gary Sewage Treatment Plant but I could not detect any septic odors.

BHPalin/rm

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